NATIONAL DRUG FILE (NDF)

Technical Manual

Version 4.0

October 1998
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Department of Veterans Affairs
VIST**A** Technical Services

Revision History

Note: Change Pages have been incorporated in this revised version of this user manual. The footers on the change pages indicate the patch number and date of the changes made to only those pages.

Date	Revision Pages	Description
02/2000	6, 7, 9	Patch PSN*4*22

Table of Contents

Introduction

The National Drug File (NDF) V. 4.0 software module provides standardization of the local drug files in all Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). Standardization includes the adoption of new drug nomenclature and drug classification, and links the local drug file entries to data in the National Drug files.

For drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), VAMCs have access to information concerning dosage form, strength and unit; package size and type; manufacturer's trade name; and National Drug Code (NDC). The NDF software lays the foundation for sharing prescription information among VAMCs.

The NATIONAL DRUG file (#50.6) has been redesigned from a file seven multiples deep to a new file structure of four separate files. The new files are the VA PRODUCT file (#50.68), the NDC/UPN file (#50.67), the VA DISPENSE UNIT file (#50.64), and File #50.6, which is now the VA GENERIC file.

With this version of NDF, the new design of the NATIONAL DRUG file (#50.6) will lay the foundation for timely data releases by Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) personnel to field facilities using the NDF Management System. As new drug products are released, this information can be quickly sent to facilities. Pharmacy end users will be able to match (classify) a greater percentage of their local drug files for new products. Update/delivery of data will be controlled by PBM personnel. Frequent updating of NDF will be possible with minimal time for installation and downtime.

In addition to the redesign of NATIONAL DRUG file (#50.6), Version 4.0 will provide the following enhancements:

- Addition of new fields to NDF, such as National Formulary and restriction indicators.
- Lay foundation for interfaces to other Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) software to update NDF fields for new/revised drug information.
- Update current NDF with new/revised product information.
- Creation of an Application Programmer's Interface (API) to accommodate all existing VISTA software Database Integration Agreements (DBIAs) with NDF.
- A clean-up of associated files, such as DRUG MANUFACTURER (#55.95), DRUG UNITS (#50.607), etc.
- Incorporation of approved enhancement requests by Pharmacy/Information Resources Management (IRM) end users.

Related Manuals

National Drug File V. 4.0 Release Notes
National Drug File V. 4.0 Installation Guide
National Drug File V. 4.0 User Manual

Icons

Icons used to highlight key points in this manual are defined as follows:

☞   Indicates the user should take note of the information.

Implementation and Maintenance

The VA Drug Classification System

The Department of Veterans Affairs Drug Classification system was developed to provide a systematic management approach to the classification of medications, including investigational and over-the counter drugs, prosthetic items, and expendable supplies. The system was designed to do the following:

- Support the inpatient and outpatient pharmacy activities;
- Facilitate the identification of drug-drug, drug-allergy, drug-lab, and drug-food interactions;
- Uphold the requirements for inventory accountability; substantiate and improve all patient medication-related activity;
- Provide an improved database to assist the health care provider;
- Provide a coordinated method of database communication for VA management;
- Facilitate the monitoring of investigational drugs; and
- Facilitate the control of prosthetic and supply items.

Each five-character alpha-numeric code specifies a broad classification and a specific type of product. The first two characters are letters and form the mnemonic for the major classification (e.g., AM for antimicrobials). Characters 3 through 5 are numbers and form the basis for subclassification. For example, the classification system for the penicillins is as follows:

AM000 ANTIMICROBIALS
AM050 Penicillins
AM051 Penicillin-G Related Penicillins
AM052 Penicillins, Amino Derivatives
AM053 Penicillinase-Resistant Penicillins
AM054 Extended spectrum Penicillins

The VA Drug Classification system classifies drug products, not generic ingredients. Drug products with local effects are classified by route of administration (e.g., dermatological, ophthalmic). If a product is not classified by route of administration, in most cases, it is classified under a specific chemical or pharmacological classification (e.g., beta-blockers, cephalosporins). If a product is not classified by route of administration, or chemical or pharmacological subclassification, it may be classified under a therapeutic category (e.g., antilipemic agents, antiparkinson agents).

Most combination products are found in the "other" subclassification under each major classification unless a specific subcategory for combination products has been added or a descriptive comment indicates inclusion elsewhere. In addition,

products which are not adequately described by a minor category or subcategory within the major classification are classified as "other" (e.g., metronidazole and vancomycin are classified as "Anti-Infectives, Other").

Resource Requirements

The following resources are required for the National Drug File software package:

Routines
    PSN* routines   approx. 4636 bytes

Implementation Requirements

There are no configurable site parameters involved in the implementation of this product. This module will not be distributed to field facilities. This module will only be installed on the system where the master National Drug files reside.

System Configuration

There are no site-specific parameters associated with NDF.

Assigning Keys, Menus, and Options

The installer must enter users into the test and production accounts, assigning the PSNMGR option as the primary menu option. The PSNMGR key must be assigned to the package coordinator and/or their designee. This key unlocks the *Allow Unmatched Drugs To Be Classed* [PSNSTCL] and *Local Formulary Report* [PSNFRMLY] menu options. Only users having this key will see these options on their menus.

Files

The NATIONAL DRUG file (#50.6) has been redesigned from a file seven multiples deep to a new file structure of four separate files. The new files are the VA PRODUCT file (#50.68), the NDC/UPN file (#50.67), the VA DISPENSE UNIT file (#50.64), and File #50.6, which is now the VA GENERIC file.

The files required to run the NDF software are listed below.

```
                                   UP    SEND  DATA                    USER
                                   DATE  SEC.  COMES   SITE   RSLV  OVER
FILE #      NAME                   DD    CODE  W/FILE  DATA   PTS   RIDE
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------

50.416     DRUG INGREDIENT         YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

50.6       VA GENERIC              YES   YES   NO

50.605     VA DRUG CLASS           YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

50.606     DOSAGE FORM             YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO
Partial DD: subDD 50.606     fld:  .01

50.607     DRUG UNITS              YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

50.608     PACKAGE TYPE            YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

50.609     PACKAGE SIZE            YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

50.612     NATIONAL DRUG TRANSLATION    YES   YES   NO

50.64      VA DISPENSE UNIT        YES   YES   NO      OVER   NO    NO

50.67      NDC/UPN                 YES   YES   NO

50.68      VA PRODUCT              YES   YES   NO

51.2       MEDICATION ROUTES       YES   YES   NO      MERG   NO    YES
Partial DD: subDD 51.2       fld:  .01

55.95      DRUG MANUFACTURER       YES   YES   YES     OVER   NO    NO

56         DRUG INTERACTION        YES   YES   NO      OVER   NO    NO

59.7       PHARMACY SYSTEM         YES   YES   NO
Partial DD: subDD 59.7       fld:  10
                             fld:  10.1
                             fld:  10.2
                             fld:  11
                             fld:  12
```

Templates

Sort	File
PSNFRMSRT	50

Print	File
PSNFRMPRT	50
PSNHEAD	50
PSNLDG1	50
PSNPRINT	50.605
PSNRPT4	50
PSNACTION	56

Routines

The following is a list of routines you will see for NDF when you load the new routine set. The first line of each routine contains a brief description of the general function of the routine. Use the Kernel option XU FIRST LINE PRINT (*First Line Routine Print*) to print a list of just the first line of each PSN* routine.

PSN4P4	PSN4POST	PSN4PRE	PSNACT	PSNAPIS
PSNAUTO	PSNBLD	PSNCLPR	PSNCLS	PSNCMOP
PSNCOMP	PSNDDI1	PSNDEA	PSNDEX	PSNDINT
PSNDRUG	PSNEXC	PSNFRMLY	PSNHEADR	PSNHELP
PSNHELP1	PSNHFRM	PSNHFRM1	PSNHIT	PSNLDG
PSNLOOK	PSNMCLS	PSNMRG	PSNNDC	PSNNDC1
PSNNFL	PSNNFL1	PSNNGR	PSNOCLS	PSNONDF
PSNOUT	PSNPFN	PSNPPIP	PSNPRE	PSNPRE1
PSNPSS	PSNPST	PSNQA	PSNRPT	PSNRPT2
PSNRPT3	PSNSTCK	PSNSTCL	PSNSUPLY	PSNTER
PSNUPN	PSNVAGN	PSNVER	PSNVFY	PSNVIEW
PSNXREF				

56 Routines

Exported Options

The National Drug File [PSNMGR] menu, assigned to all users, contains two locked options-—*Allow Unmatched Drugs to Be Classed* [PSNSTCL] and *Formulary Report* [[SNFRMLY]. These options are unlocked by the PSNMGR key. This key must be assigned to the package coordinator or his/her designee. Only users having this key will see these options on their menu.

The following are the options exported with NDF version 4.0:

National Drug File V. 4.0 Menu

```
REMA    Rematch/Match Single Drugs  [PSNDRUG]
VER     Verify Matches  [PSNVFY]
SVER    Verify Single Match  [PSNVER]
MERG    Merge National Drug File Data Into Local File  [PSNMRG]
AUTO    Automatic Match of Unmatched Drugs  [PSNAUTO]
CLAS    Allow Unmatched Drugs to be Classed  [PSNSTCL]
        [Locked:  PSNMGR]
RPRT    National Drug File Reports [PSNSUBM]
    LDF      Local Drug File Report  [PSNLDG]
    VAGN     Report of VA Generic Names from National Drug  [PSNVAGN]
    ATMP     Report of Attempted Match Drugs  [PSNEXC]
    PROD     VA Product Names Matched Report  [PSNPFN]
    NOCL     Local Drugs with No VA Drug Class Report  [PSNOCLS]
    CLVA     VA Drug Classification  [PSNCLS]
    DFL      NDF Info from Your Local Drug File  [PSNRPT]
    SUPL     Supply (XA000) VA Class Report  [PSNSUPLY]
    MANC     Manually Classed Drugs Report  [PSNMCLS]
    NMAT     Local Drugs with NO Match to NDF Report  [PSNONDF]
    *LOCF    Local Formulary Report  [PSNFRMLY]  [Locked: PSNMGR]
    NATF     National Formulary Report  [PSNNFL]
    DDIN     Drug-Drug Interaction Report  [PSNTER]
    CMOP     VA Products Marked for CMOP Transmission  [PSNCMOP]
    PNCL     VA Product Names By Class Report  [PSNCLPR]
INQ      Inquiry Options  [PSNQUER]
    LINQ     Inquire to Local Drug File  [PSNVIEW]
  **PNIN     Inquire to VA Product Info For Local Drug [PSNLOOK]
    NDCU     NDC/UPN Inquiry  [PSNUPN]
    NAT      Inquire to National Files [PSNACT]
PMIS     Print a PMI Sheet  [PSNPMIS]
```

 * Formerly *Formulary Report*
 ** Formerly *Lookup National Drug Info in Local File.*

Archiving and Purging

The NDF software contains no archiving or purging capabilities. It is recommended that National Drug File remain online.

Callable Routines

The National Drug File contains one callable routine at the present time. This routine, PSNNGR, is used by the Allergy Tracking System software package. The routine is the actual point of entry.

This routine is to be used in conjunction with the allergies package. It expects an input of PSNDA=internal number in File 50.6 (VA GENERIC file). The routine returns ^TMP("PSN",$J,IFN)=Primary Ingredient. The IFN is the Internal number from File #50.416 (DRUG INGREDIENTS file) of Primary Ingredient. If PSNDA doesn't exist, PSNID and ^TMP("PSN",$J) are killed. The variables X,J,K,PSNPN are used and are killed before exiting.

External Interfaces

The National Drug File V. 4.0 relies (minimum) on the following external packages. This software is not included in this package and must be installed before this version of NDF is completely functional.

Package	Minimum Version Needed
VA FileMan	21.0
Kernel	8.0
MailMan	7.1
Pharmacy Data Management	1.0
National Drug File	3.18
Adverse Reaction Tracking	4.0
Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy	2.0
Decision Support System	3.0
Drug Accountability	3.0
Immunology Case Registry	2.1
Inpatient Medications	4.5 or greater
Order Entry/Results Reporting	2.5 or greater
Outpatient Pharmacy	6.0 or greater

The build will check to make sure that the site has the following patches installed:

Package	Patch Needed
Adverse Reaction Tracking V. 4.0	GMRA*4*13
Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy V. 2.0	PSX*2*18
Decision Support System V. 3.0	ECX*3*10
Drug Accountability V. 3.0	PSA*3*8
Immunology Case Registry V. 2.1	IMR*2.1*3
Inpatient Medications V. 4.5	PSJ*4.5*59
Inpatient Medications V. 5.0	PSJ*5*11, PSJ*5*14
Order Entry/Results Reporting V. 3.0	OR*3*33 *[CPRS sites only]*
Outpatient Pharmacy V. 6.0	PSO*6*173
Outpatient Pharmacy V. 7.0	PSO*7*10, PSO*7*11
Pharmacy Data Management V. 1.0	PSS*1*29

External Relations

Data Base Integration Agreements (DBIAs)

National Drug File (NDF) V. 4.0 has Data Base Integration Agreements (DBIAs) with the packages listed above. For complete information regarding the DBIAs for NDF V. 4.0, please refer to the *DBA* [DBA] menu option on FORUM and then the *Integration Agreement Menu* [DBA IA ISC].

Internal Relations

All of the National Drug File software package options have been designed to stand alone.

Package-Wide Variables

The National Drug File routines do not use package-wide variables.

Electronic Mail Messages

When the data patches have been sent, you and holder(s) of the PSNMGR key will receive Mailman messages similar to the following examples.

The first MailMan message lists new VA products that have been added to the National Drug files. The second MailMan message contains a list of drugs unmatched from the National Drug files.

MailMan Message 1: Data Update for National Drug File

```
Subj: DAT UPDATE FOR NDF  [#24898] 01 Oct 98 23:27  45 Lines
From: NDF MANAAGER  in 'IN' basket.   Page 1
------------------------------------------------------------------------

 The following new VA Products have been added

 BRIEF,PROMISE MEDIUM,SCOTT #61122
 SIMVASTATIN 80MG TAB
 BRIEF,PROMISE LARGE,SCOTT #61123
 INTERFERON ALFA-2B,RECOMBINANT 3MILLION UNT/0.2ML INJ,PEN,1.5ML
 INTERFERON ALFA-2B,RECOMBINANT 5MILLION UNT/0.2ML INJ,PEN,1.5ML
 INTERFERON ALFA-2B,RECOMBINANT 10MILLION UNT/0.2ML INJ,PEN,1.5ML
 MOMETASONE FUROATE MONOHYDRATE 50MCG/ACTUAT SOLN,NASAL,17GM
 LOPERAMIDE HCL 1MG/5ML LIQUID,10ML
 LOPERAMIDE HCL 1MG/5ML LIQUID,20ML
 METHADONE HCL 10MG/ML INJ,AMP,1ML
 MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL HYDROCHLORIDE 500MG/VIL INJ,IV
 INFLIXIMAB 100MG/VIL (PF) INJ,IV
 PREVEN ENERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE KIT
 RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE 5MG TAB
 RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE 5MG TAB,PKG 6
 RIFAPENTINE 150MG TAB
 CALFACTANT 35MG/ML SUSP,INTRATRACHEAL
 CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE 20MG TAB
 CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE 20MG TAB,UD
 DILTIAZEM (WATSON) 120MG SA CAP
 DILTIAZEM (WATSON) 180MG SA CAP
 DILTIAZEM (WATSON) 240MG SA CAP
 REPAGLINIDE 0.5MG TAB
 REPAGLINIDE 1MG TAB
 REPAGLINIDE 2MG TAB
 FENOLDOPAM MESYLATE 10MG/ML INJ,CONC,AMP,5ML
 FENOLDOPAM MESYLATE 10MG/ML INJ,CONC,AMP,1ML
 FENOLDOPAM MESYLATE 10MG/ML INJ,CONC,AMP,2ML
 MENTHOL 0.5%/PRAMOXINE 1% GEL,TOP
 MENTHOL 0.5%/PRAMOXINE 1% GEL,TOP
 LEG BAG STRAP H#9342 LATEX FREE
 LEG BAG STRAP H#9343 LATEX FREE
 LEG BAG STRAP H#9344 LATEX FREE
 LEG BAG COMBINATION PACK H#9354 LATEX FREE
 LEG BAG COMBINATION PACK H#9355 LATEX FREE
 HYDROXYUREA 200MG CAP
```

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 HYDROXYUREA 300MG CAP
 HYDROXYUREA 400MG CAP
 ALBUTEROL (PROVENTIL) 90MCG/SPRAY INHL,ORAL,17GM
 RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE 10MG TAB
 RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE 5MG TAB,ORALLY DISINTEGRATING
 RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE 10MG TAB,ORALLY DISINTEGRATING


Select MESSAGE Action: IGNORE (in IN basket)//<RET>
```

MailMan Message 2: Drugs Unmatched from National Drug File

```
Subj: DRUGS UNMATCHED FROM NATIONAL DRUG FILE  [#24899] 01 Oct 98 23:27
  7 Lines
From: NDF MANAGER  in 'IN' basket.   Page 1
-------------------------------------------------------------------------

The following entries in your local drug file have been
unmatched from the national drug file
ACYCLOVIR 800MG TAB
BECLOMETHASONE 42MCG 200D POCKETHALER
ERYTHRO 200/SULFISOXAZOLE 600MG/5ML SUSP
MISOPROSTOL 200MCG TAB
PILOCARPINE HCL 4% OPH GEL


Select MESSAGE Action: IGNORE (in IN basket)// <RET>
```

Software Product Security

National Drug File V. 4.0 does not impose any additional legal requirements on the user, nor does it relieve the user of any legal requirements.

PSNMGR Key

The PSNMGR key is assigned to the package coordinator or his/her designee. This key unlocks the *Allow Unmatched Drugs to be Classed* [PSNSTCL] and the *Local Formulary Report* [PSNFRMLY] options. Only users having this key will see these options on their menu.

These menu options are locked because the first allows you to assign a VA classification to an unmatched or unmatchable drug in the local DRUG file (#50), and the second allows you to print a Hospital Formulary Report.

The NATIONAL DRUG CLASS field (Field 25 of File 50) cannot be edited through VA FileMan, so ***only*** designated holders of the PSNMGR key can directly alter this field. The field may be altered in one of the following ways:

If the drug is matched to the National Drug files, the field is edited through the matching process in the National Drug File software. This change is automatic and not under user control.

If the drug is not matched, the NATIONAL DRUG CLASS field may be edited through the menu option *Allow Unmatched Drugs To Be Classed*, accessible only to users with the PSNMGR key.

Precautions and Potential Problems

It is strongly recommended that the DRUG file (#50) and the NATIONAL DRUG TRANSLATION file (#50.612) be included in the facility's backup procedures on a periodic and systematic basis. It is important to back up these two files before the option, *Merge National Drug File Data Into Local File,* is executed. The Information Resources Management (IRM) staff must be advised before this option is executed to ensure that appropriate back up is done prior to execution.

File Security

File Numbers	File Names	DD	RD	WR	DEL	LAYGO
50.416	DRUG INGREDIENTS	@	@	@	@	@
50.6	VA GENERIC	@	@	@	@	@
50.605	VA DRUG CLASS	@	@	@	@	@
50.606	DOSAGE FORM	@		@	@	@
50.607	DRUG UNITS	@	@	@	@	@
50.608	PACKAGE TYPE	@	@	@	@	@
50.609	PACKAGE SIZE	@	@	@	@	@
50.612	NATIONAL DRUG TRANSLATION	@		@	@	@
50.64	VA DISPENSE UNIT	@	@	@	@	@
50.67	NDC/UPN	@	@	@	@	@
50.68	VA PRODUCT	@	@	@	@	@
51.2	MEDICATION ROUTES	@				
55.95	DRUG MANUFACTURER	@	@	@	@	@
56	DRUG INTERACTION	@				
59.7	PHARMACY SYSTEM	^	@	^	^	^

Glossary

Automatic Match by NDC Matching	Pairing of a drug from the local DRUG file (#50) with a drug in the National Drug File with the same NDC number. This matching will be accomplished when the option *Automatic Match of Unmatched Drugs* is executed for the first time.
Active Drug	Drugs which contain no inactivation date in the INACTIVE DATE field (#100) local DRUG file (#50).
API	Application Programmer Interface.
DEA, SPECIAL HDLG Field	Field #3. A field in the local DRUG file (#50). It contains one or more codes representing special characteristics of a product.
DRUG File	See Local DRUG file.
DRUG INGREDIENTS File	File #50.416. A file that contains individual generic drugs which are components of various drug products.
Error	In the National Drug File (NDF) software, an error is an entry in the NATIONAL DRUG TRANSLATION file (#50.12) that does not have a match in the local DRUG file (#50).
FSN	Federal Stock Number. A unique identifying number assigned by the Federal Supply System to a product (drug, supply, food item, etc.) for ordering and accounting purposes. Synonymous with the National Stock Number (NSN). This is one of the fields in the local DRUG file (#50).

Local DRUG File (#50)

This file contains the local GENERIC NAME (#.01), INACTIVE DATE (#100), DEA, SPECIAL HDLG (#3), and NDC fields, as well as others. NDF software attempts to match products from this file with products in the VA GENERIC file (#50.6) and the VA PRODUCT file (#50.58).

Manually Classed Drug

A drug from the local DRUG file (#50) which could not be matched, but has been assigned a VA Drug Classification through the use of the *Allow Unmatched Drugs to Be Classed* menu option.

Manufacturer Code

The first portion of the NDC Number (the first 4-6 digits). Identifies the manufacturer of the product.

NATIONAL DRUG File (#50.6)

This file contains a list of available drug products. It includes specific information for each product, including trade name, NDC number, manufacturer, VA Drug Class code, dosage form, route of administration, strength, units, ingredients, ingredient strength and units, package code, package size, package type, VA Product Name, and VA generic name. NDF software attempts to match products from this file with products in the local DRUG file (#50).

National Drug Identifier

A unique, HL7 compatible code assigned to all products marked for CMOP transmission. This code is utilized to transmit VA Print name and dispense unit from **V***IST***A** to the vendor system.

NATIONAL DRUG File (#50.6)

This file contains a list of available drug products. It includes specific information for each product, including trade name, NDC number, manufacturer, VA Drug Class code, dosage form, route of administration, strength, units, ingredients, ingredient strength and units, package code, package size, package type, VA product name, and VA generic name. NDF software attempts to match products from this file with products in the local DRUG file (#50).

NATIONAL DRUG TRANSLATION File (#50.612)

A temporary file that is created by the NDF software. This file will contain information on drugs that have been matched, or for which a match was attempted.

NDC (NDC Number)

National Drug Code. A unique number assigned to a drug by the manufacturer for identification purposes. The NDC is in one of three formats: 4-4-2, 5-3-2, or 5-4-1. The first part is the manufacturer's code, the second part is the product number, and the last is the code for the package size and type. This is one of the fields in the local DRUG file (#50).

NDF

National Drug File. Refers to the National Drug File software.

Package Code

The last portion of the NDC number (the last two digits). This identifies the package type and size in which the product is supplied.

Package Size

The actual (physical) amount of a drug in the individual package (i.e., 5000 capsules per bottle).

Package Type	The physical container in which a drug is supplied (i.e., bottle, vial).
Product Code	The second portion of the NDC number (the second four digits) that identifies the specific drug.
PSNMGR	The name of the primary menu option and of the key that must be assigned to the pharmacy coordinator and supervisors using the National Drug File software.
Supply Item	A non-drug item entered into the GENERIC NAME field (# .01) of the local DRUG file (#50) that may be a prosthetic or expendable item such as ostomy supply, alcohol pads, syringes, bed pans, etc. identified by the code "S" in the DEA/SPECIAL HDLG field (#3) of the local DRUG file (#50).
Trade Name	This is the brand name. The name given to a generic product to distinguish it as one produced and sold by a specific manufacturer.
UPC	Universal Product Code. A unique number assigned to a product by a manufacturer commonly used for supply items. These may be found in the NDC/UPN file (#50.67).
VA Dispense Unit	The standardized unit assigned to a product when the product is marked for CMOP transmission.
VA DRUG CLASS File (#50.605)	This file contains the VA Drug Classification codes and their descriptions. Each product has one of these codes assigned to it and stored with it.

VA Generic Name   A name given to an item (drug, supply,
                              etc. in the VA GENERIC file (#50.6)). It is
                              this name which is matched with the
                              entry in the GENERIC NAME (local
                              generic name) field (#.01) of the local
                              DRUG file (#50). This name does not
                              contain strength, unit, or dosage form.

VA Print Name   The forty character name assigned as the
                              name which prints on all prescription
                              labels for products marked for CMOP
                              transmission.

VA Product Name   The unique name assigned to each drug
                              product in the National Drug File. This
                              name comes from the VA PRODUCT file
                              (#50.68) and includes strength, unit, and
                              dosage form.

VISTA   Veterans Health Information Systems
                              and Technology Architecture.

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